

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03214 240749Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----034964 240750Z /11

P R 240655Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9126
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3214

EXDIS

SECSTATE FOR HARROP

RABAT FOR ASST SECY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, SA
SUBJ: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON SOMALIA

REF: STATE 185970

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR PRESENTED POINTS REFTEL TO MOFA
AMERICAS DIVISION DIRECTOR AND REQUESTED HIM TO TRANSMIT
THEM TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN MENGISTU.

END SUMMARY.

1. DEEPLY APPRECIATE EXCELLENT TALKING POINTS REFTEL.
CONVEYED THEM TO DIRECTOR AMERICAS DIVISION AT LUNCHEON
JULY 23, WHEN HOST, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, FAILED TO
APPEAR BECAUSE HE WAS STILL AT LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT
NYERERE. I OPENED BY NOTING THAT CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAD
NOT MENTIONED OGADEN OR SOMALIA WHEN I HAD PRESENTED
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CREDENTIALS. I HAD FEW BRIEF POINTS WHICH MY GOVERNMENT
REQUESTED ME TO MAKE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. BERHANE
ASKED WHETHER I WOULD HAVE MADE THEM TO CHAIRMAN, HAD HE
RAISED ISSUE, AND, ENLARGING ON MY INSTRUCTIONS, I SAID
YES. GAVE BERHANE DERESSE COPY TALKING POINTS IN ORDER
THAT THEY MIGHT BE ACCURATELY REFLECTED TO CHAIRMAN MEN-
GISTU. BERHANE SAID I COULD STILL MAKE THEM ORALLY TO

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN I SAW HIM AT HIS REQUEST
(ADDIS ABABA 3179).

2. BERHANE DERESSE'S REACTION WAS CAUTIOUS. HE SAID POSITION WAS "ALL RIGHT." HE SAID US CAUTIONED ETHIOPIA PUBLICLY TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT BUT DID NOT SAY ANYTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT SOMALIA. I COUNTERED THAT THIS WAS PRIVATE POSITION AND EMPHASIZED THAT FROM ETHIOPIAN STANDPOINT, "INVASION" AND VERB "DEPLORED," WHICH WAS VERY STRONG IN US DIPLOMATIC PARLANCE, SHOULD PLEASE CHAIRMAN. BERHANE CAVILLED OVER USE OF WORD RETALIATION, AND I REMARKED THAT THIS HAD LONG HISTORY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN SITUATIONS OF UNDECLARED WAR.

3. BERHANE ASKED ABOUT MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, AND I REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT LEFT US, WHICH WAS ALL I COULD SAY.

4. WHILE FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY RE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, I BELIEVE WE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DEVELOP MORE PRECISE GUIDANCE FOR US CONCERNING THIS ISSUE THAN WHAT WE HAVE AT HAND.

CHAPIN

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